

COPY**PATENT**

Atty. Docket No. BSC-187

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Rioux *et al.* CONF. NO.: 1401
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/935,487 ART UNIT: 3738
FILING DATE: August 23, 2001 EXAMINER: B. Pellegrino
TITLE: Maintaining an Open Passageway Through a Body Lumen

**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3738**

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE AFTER FINAL ACTION

This paper is responsive to a final Office action, Paper No. 11, mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on January 26, 2004. Applicants believe this submission necessitates no petition or fee. Nevertheless, if any petition or fee is required, please consider this a conditional petition therefor and authorization to charge deposit account no. 20-0531.

In response to the Office action, please amend the above-identified application, without prejudice, as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.